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Resolution 1980-05-14 Transfers of Federal Lands to the States

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

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1. Wherever possible, the in-kind replacement of fish and wildlife habitat lost to water resource developments;
2. Primary use of biologically based methodologies, such as the HEP procedure, used by the Fish and Wildlife Service, to evaluate and justify mitigation measures;
3. Elimination of the outmoded and conceptually flawed “man-day use” method of valuing wildlife resources;
4. “Retrofit” of authorized but unconstructed projects with adequate mitigation plans;
5. Concurrent and proportionate implementation of authorized mitigation measures;
6. Preauthorization (i.e., feasibility stage) mitigation studies on Federal projects, to be funded as a part of project costs; and
7. Equal consideration of (e.g., equal funding for) nonstructural approaches to water management.

Resolution No. 5

Transfers of Federal Lands to the States

WHEREAS, legislation introduced in the U.S. Congress would transfer ownership of certain categories of Federal lands in the West to the states; and

WHEREAS, some states have enacted similar legislation or have it under consideration; and

WHEREAS, these lands are highly valuable resources which merit scientific management of a scope and quality believed to be currently beyond the capabilities of the state governments; and

WHEREAS, the expenditure of Federal funds for roads and trails, fire suppression and presuppression, and range, watershed and wildlife management and these lands may exceed the revenues from them and could become financial burdens for the states if the ownerships were transferred; and

WHEREAS, the states would lose significant incomes from payments in lieu of taxes, forest receipts, and mineral royalties; and

WHEREAS, existing laws provide for these lands to be retained in Federal ownership for multiple use management for the benefit of the largest number of citizens; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies hereby expresses its firm opposition to the large-scale transfer of western Federal lands to the states other than those lands authorized to be conveyed to the states in their statehood acts.

Resolution No. 6

Indian Land Claims

WHEREAS, Indian tribes are making numerous claims to lands in both public and private ownership; and